

27 in 2000 · 25 in 2001  
7% decrease

# Narcotics Arrests

*Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal narcotics. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect those cases that are known to the police.*

## Geographic Breakdown of Drug Incidents

Neighborhood	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 1999	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2000	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2001
East Cambridge	3	3	0
MIT	2	2	0
Inman/Harrington	2	0	4
Area 4	16	4	2
Cambridgeport	10	6	2
Mid-Cambridge	6	5	4
Riverside	2	0	1
Agassiz	0	0	0
Peabody	1	0	3
West Cambridge	2	4	1
North Cambridge	4	2	6
Cambridge Highlands	0	1	2
Strawberry Hill	0	0	0

row, marijuana possession resulted in 12 arrests. Drug possession accounted for 22 arrests, 6 of which included the "Intent to Distribute". Heroin possession dropped from 8 to 3 arrests (-63%); prescription drug possession fell from 3 to 0; and hypodermic needle possession remained at 1. Crack/cocaine activity showed a marked increase, leading to 10 arrests (6 of which were sale/trafficking-related). Together, SIU and patrol seized significant amounts of marijuana (116 bags on 1 occasion), crack/cocaine, acid, & heroin, along with several pipes and measuring/packaging materials.

In the first quarter of 2001, there were roughly as many incidents involving drug sales/trafficking or possession (25) as there were in the first quarter of 2000 (27). Out of the 25 incidents, some 27 arrests were made, primarily of males aged 17-25. A significant number of arrestees were residing in local shelters, else in areas outside of Cambridge (i.e., Lynfield, Roslindale, Lowell, etc.).

Arrests have continued to decline since 1999, due to the Special Investigations Unit's successful efforts to fight narcotic trafficking. Cambridgeport and Area 4 continue to witness large reductions in street-level dealing and neighborhood complaints.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a

### Drug Tip Hotline

*The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling **617-349-3359**. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in confidence.***

190 in 2000 · 214 in 2001  
13% increase

# Malicious Destruction

Neighborhood	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 1999	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2000	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2001
East Cambridge	22	17	26
MIT	3	4	2
Inman/Harrington	14	7	18
Area 4	17	30	24
Cambridgeport	19	28	26
Mid-Cambridge	16	16	17
Riverside	20	17	23
Agassiz	8	8	4
Peabody	21	10	19
West Cambridge	19	19	20
North Cambridge	40	20	26
Cambridge Highlands	3	8	3
Strawberry Hill	6	6	6

*Vandalism, or malicious destruction of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore "minor" incidents of vandalism and graffiti.*

There were 214 incidents of malicious destruction, or "vandalism," reported in the first quarter of 2001, a 13 percent increase from the 190 reported in 2000. The big increases were in **East Cambridge** and **Peabody** — but no large patterns appeared. Some of the increases in malicious destruction are due to the rise in graffiti and tagging that is being discovered all over the City. A

comprehensive analysis of tagging hot spots since 1997 can be found on the following page.

81 in 2000 · 55 in 2001  
32% decrease

# Fraud and Forgery

*The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police.*

In the first quarter of 2001, there were 55 incidents of fraud and forgery reported in Cambridge, compared with 81 during the first three months of 2000. The driving force behind the 32% decrease in this crime type was the dramatic drop in the passing of forged and bad checks.

- **Counterfeiting:** During the first quarter of 2001, there were no reports of phony money registered in Cambridge

- **Application:** In all three of the cases so far this year, subjects have been applying for credit cards after obtaining information about their victim.

- **Bad Check:** The writing of checks on insufficient funds or closed accounts. The Cambridge Police took only 3 reports for this crime in the first quarter of 2001, down from eleven incidents in 2000.

Crime	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2000	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2001
<b>Counterfeiting</b>	2	0
<b>Forgery/Uttering</b>		
Application	1	3
Bad Check	11	3
Forged Check	16	7
ATM/Credit Card	27	29
<b>Embezzlement</b>	10	3
<b>Con Games</b>		
Big Carrot	0	2
Utility Impostor	0	1
Pigeon Drop	0	0
Charity	1	1
Psychic	1	0
Miscellaneous	7	0
<b>Identity Theft</b>	5	6

- **Forged Check:** 7 crimes involved the use of a lost or stolen check, with the offender forging the victim's signature. This compares with 16 in 2000.

- **ATM/Credit Card Fraud:** 29 incidents of the use of a lost or stolen credit or ATM card, compared to 27 in 2000. This crime is becoming more popular with the proliferation of "check cards." The Galleria is a hot spot for this crime.

- **Embezzlement:** A situation in which an employee takes advantage of his position for his own financial gain, re-diverting company funds or property to himself. Only 3 were reported in the first three months of 2001, compared to 10 during 2000 and 18 in 1999. The Crime Analysis Unit is seeing more and more incidents of "blue collar embezzlement" in which store clerks—often juveniles—take the day's deposits or a selection of merchandise. Galleria and Harvard Square stores are affected most.

- **"Con" Games:** We had four swindles, con games or flim flams in the first three months of 2001, compared to nine in 2000. The **"Charity Impostor"** scam involved a man soliciting donations for the Cambridge Police Mutual Aid Association. Both of the **"Big**

**Carrots**” were at the Galleria and complied with the typical scenario of the offer of computers at discounts too good to be true. They were.